

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /114 W

----- 071696

R 140947 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0173

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CAN THO BY POUCH

AMCONSUL DANANG BY POUCH

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA BY POUCH

UNCLAS SAIGON 06348

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJECT : APRIL 13 STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GAUVIN

1. CANDEL AMBASSADOR GAUVIN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
REGARDING

THE QUANG TRI HELICOPTER INCIDENT TO THE APRIL 13 ICCS PLENARY:
BEGIN TEXT:

1. MR. CHAIRMAN,

I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY MOVED BY THE MEMORIAL SERVICE WHICH TOOK
PLACE YESTERDAY FOR TWO OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HELICOPTER INCIDENT,
IN WHICH 2 HUNGARIANS 1 INDONESIAN, 1 CANADIAN, 2 AMERICANS AND
1 FILIPINO MET THEIR DEATH, AS WELL AS TWO MEMBERS OF THE PRG.
I WAS ALSO VERY IMPRESSED BY THE SPEECH WHICH YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN,
MADE ON THAT SAD OCCASION. I AM SURE THAT IF I HAD BEEN ABLE
TO UNDERSTAND HUNGARIAN I WOULD HAVE BEEN MOVED IN THE SAME
WAY. NOW THAT WE HAVE RENDERED TO OUR FELLOWS OF THE COMMISSION
THE CEREMONIAL HOMAGE WHICH THEY DESERVED FOR HAVING LOST THEIR
LIVES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR HIGH DUTIES AS PEACE MAKERS, I
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FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT WE OWE THEM AND THE MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES WHO WILL MISS THEM FOREVER MORE THAN OUR REMEMBRANCE.

2. OUR DUTY TO THEM NOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, IS TO ESTABLISH THE TRUE FACTS SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT WHICH TOOK THE LIVES OF OUR COLLEAGUES, TO ESTABLISH THE TRUTH AS TO WHY THEY DIED AND TO FIND OUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DEATHS.

3. INsofar AS I AM CONCERNED, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND INsofar AS THE CANADIAN DELEGATION IS ALSO CONCERNED, WE SHALL NOT REST UNTIL WE HAVE ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS. OUR ENERGY AND RESOURCES WILL BE DEVOTED TO ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS. I PROMISE CAPTAIN LAVIOLETTE AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE HUNGARIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS THAT WE WILL NOT FAIL THEM IN THIS IMPORTANT MISSION, IN ORDER THAT THESE OTHERWISE SENSELESS DEATHS WILL BECOME A MEANINGFUL DETERRENT TO ANY REPETITION OF SUCH HOSTILE ACTION AGAINST THE ICCS.

4. WHAT WORRIES ME MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, MR. CHAIRMAN, IS THAT THERE EXISTS A REASONABLE POSSIBILITY THAT CAPTAIN LAVIOLETTE AND HIS COLLEAGUES MET THEIR TRAGIC FATE, NOT AT THE HANDS OF ONE OF THE TWO PARTIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM, BUT AT THE HANDS OF TROOPS WHOSE PRESENCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT. WE HAVE STRONG REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IN OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH VIETNAM, AS WELL AS IN THE AREA WHERE THE HELICOPTER INCIDENT TOOK PLACE, NO, - SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE STATIONED IN, OR ARE INFILTRATING, SOUTH VIETNAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING MILITARILY ONE OF THE TWO PARTIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM. WHEN WE CAME HERE AS MEMBERS OF THE ICCS WE HAD, AND STILL HAVE, EVERY RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT THE DIFFERENCES WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM WILL BE RESOLVED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS AND THROUGH THE PROCESS OF FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS.

5. WE ARE NOT CONCERNED IN THIS COMMISSION, MR. CHAIRMAN, WITH THE PAST. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN SIGNED BY FOUR PARTIES AND WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT THESE PARTIES LIVE UP TO THE AGREEMENT THAT THEY SIGNED. WE DID NOT COME HERE, MR. CHAIRMAN, TO SEE THIS COMMISSION BEING TURNED INTO A COVER-UP FOR THE AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS OF ONE PARTY OVER THE OTHER. THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM IS GUARANTEED BY THE AGREEMENT AND IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF

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SOUTH VIETNAM CANNOT BE EXPRESSED IF OUTSIDERS TAKE SIDES IN SUPPORT OF ONE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTY AGAINST THE OTHER.

6. YOU WILL RECALL, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THIS COMMISSION HAS BEEN SEIZED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WITH REQUESTS TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED EXISTENCE OF SAM MISSILES AT KHE SANH, AND THAT OUR EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE THIS ALLEGATION HAVE NOT ONLY BEEN FRUSTRATED BUT HAVE BEEN DENIED THROUGH THE OPPOSITION OF TWO MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION. IT IS IRONICAL, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT LAVIOLETTE AND HIS COLLEGAUES HAVE MET EHIR TRAGIC FATE ON APRIL 7, AT THE HANDS OF HOSTILE FIRE IN THE VICINITY OF KHE SANH, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE PROCEEDING ON AN AUTHORIZED AND CAREFULLY PREPARED RECONNAISSANCE AT LAO BAO IN ORDER TO EVENTUALLY OCCUPY ONE OF THE SITES WHICH, UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT, SHOULD HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 27.

7. I SWEAR, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT I AND MY DELEGATION WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH THE TRUTH CONCERNING THE HELICOPTER INCIDENT. WE OWE IT TO CAPTAIN LAVIOLETTE AND HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THEIR DEATHS WILL NOT BE IN VAIN AND MERELY BE CLASSIFIED IN THE FILES OF THIS COMMISSION JUST AS AN ACCIDENT. END TEXT.
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